

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

It's obvious to me that concentrating media ownership in the hands of a few corporations deprives us all of diversity of viewpoints. Even PBS is beholden to these same corporations.

Since the demise of the Fairness Doctrine, it has been more and more difficult for anyone to have a voice if they can't pay for it. As an example, the right-wing conservative pundits provide a full-time propaganda machine for the Bush administration. While the majority of people in my state do not agree with many of the administration's policies, there are no radio and television commentators presenting their viewpoints. In our recent election, the Republicans had an unfair advantage because of their ability to spew propaganda at the masses without having to buy time.

The television stations in my area do very little reporting on real issues, and the newspaper also neglects to ask and answer the hard questions. In national media, we get day-to-day reports of the ups and downs of the stock market, but little information about the 40 million uninsured, or the numbers who are sliding into poverty daily.

I think concentrating the media in the hands of even fewer will destroy any sense of journalistic integrity.